3/6-7/71

Group backs bill on secret news source

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A group of congressmen is calling for early hearings on legislation that would ban federal officials from forcing newsmen to disclose confidential information on their news sources.

Rep. Charles W. Whalen Jr. (R-Ohio) and 26 other House members asked Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) to schedule the hearings in the Judiciary Committee.

They said the law was necesary "because of the surprising, if not alarming, amount of public support of press censorship identified in a recent nationl poll. Enactment of the act is necessary to preserve fully the intent of the First Amendment."